

ASSEMBLY

29 September 2021

Title: Annual Scrutiny Report 2020/21	
Report of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Fiona Taylor, Strategic Director of Law and Governance and Statutory Scrutiny Officer	
Summary The four principles of good public scrutiny as described by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny are: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide a constructive “critical friend” challenge;2. Amplify the voice and concerns of the public;3. Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role; and4. Drive improvement in public services. This report outlines the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix A) and Health Scrutiny Committee (Appendix B) in 2020/21 and how they have endeavoured to achieve these outcomes.	
Recommendation(s) The Assembly is recommended to note the 2020/21 annual reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Health Scrutiny Committee, as attached at Appendices A and B respectively to the report.	
Reason(s) It is good practice for the Assembly to be made aware of the work of the Scrutiny Committees during the last municipal year.	

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Following a review of the Council's governance arrangements in 2018 (Minute 56 refers), the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee have been successfully operating for three years.
- 1.2 The two Committees have looked at various issues throughout the municipal year, which are referred to in the Appendices. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also approved its in-depth scrutiny review into 'Ambition 2020 and its Early Impact' at its 1 July 2020 meeting (minute 10 refers).
- 1.3 There have been no referrals, call-ins or petitions to either Committee over the past year.

2. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: David Folorunso, Finance Business Partner

- 2.1 There are no direct financial implications for this report.

3. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Dr Paul Feild, Senior Governance Solicitor

- 3.1 As the content of the report explains there is a legal requirement for councils which establish executive governance (this includes Leader and Cabinet, our model) to establish scrutiny and overview committees under the Local Government Act 2000. The precise arrangements are a matter for local determination and an amendment to the Act to require the appointment of a statutory scrutiny officer has given that role a specific duty to promote the scrutiny and overview function and provide support for the committee(s) and members.
- 3.2 The Council's arrangements are to operate an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a Health Scrutiny Committee. The division of responsibility is that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the lead Scrutiny Committee except for health matters.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is a committee established under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Its functions are set out by law and also determined locally. It is responsible for addressing any Call-in/Councillor Call For Action that is received, except where the subject primarily relates to health matters in which case it will be dealt with by the Health Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.4 The Health Scrutiny Committee carries out health scrutiny in accordance with Section 244 (and Regulations under that section) of the National Health Services Act 2006 as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 relating to local health service matters. Where a proposal to substantially vary a health service relates to more than one local authority area, it must be considered by a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee appointed by each of the local authorities in question.

3.5 The Statutory Scrutiny Officer role was originally introduced by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the requirement for English councils to designate a “statutory” scrutiny officer can now be found at Section 9FB of the Local Government Act 2000 (the legislative framework having been altered by the Localism Act 2011).

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of appendices:

- Appendix A: Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) Annual Report 2020/21
- Appendix B: Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) Annual Report 2020/21